

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend the claims as follows.

Claims 1-12 (Canceled).

13. (Currently Amended) A method of reducing the adhesion of microorganisms to the surface of the skin and/or the mucous membranes without requiring the presence of antibiotic, bactericidal or fungicidal agents ~~in the absence of antibiotic, bactericidal or fungicidal agents~~, said method comprising contacting a composition with said skin and/or mucous membranes, said composition comprising, as an active ingredient, in a cosmetic composition or pharmaceutical composition, an effective quantity of at least one fatty substance free of carbohydrate units, having a melting point of less than 35°C and having an interfacial tension of between 6 and 27 mN/m, such that adhesion of microorganisms to the surface of the skin and/or mucous membranes is reduced.

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 13, wherein the active ingredient is selected from the group consisting of fatty acid triglycerides, vegetable oils and fatty esters comprising one or more linear or branched chains, comprising 8 to 30 carbon atoms.

15. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 13, wherein the active ingredient is selected from caprylic/capric acid triglycerides, wheatgerm oil, calendula oil, castor oil, olive oil, avocado oil, sweet almond oil, groundnut oil, jojoba oil, sesame

oil, apricot oil, sunflower oil, macadamia oil, shea butter, hexyl laurate, decyl oleate, octyl dodecyl neopentanoate, isopropyl myristate, isopropyl isostearate, isopropyl stearate, dioctyl adipate, isononyl isononanoate, tartrate of branched C₁₂-C₁₃ dialcohols, octoxyglyceryl palmitate, octoxyglyceryl behenate and/or mixtures thereof, isopropyl palmitate and di(C₁₂-C₁₃ alkyl) malate.

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 13, wherein the active ingredient is selected from sesame oil, shea butter, octoxyglyceryl palmitate, octoxyglyceryl behenate, dioctyl adipate, apricot stone oil, tartrate of branched C₁₂-C₁₃ dialcohols and/or mixtures thereof, isopropyl palmitate and di(C₁₂-C₁₃ alkyl) malate.

17. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 13, wherein the active ingredient is present in a quantity ranging from 0.1% to 100% of the total weight of the composition.

18. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 17, wherein the active ingredient is present in a quantity ranging from 0.5% to 50% of the total weight of the composition.

19. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 17, wherein the active ingredient is present in a quantity ranging from 5% to 25% of the total weight of the composition.

20. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 13, wherein the composition is provided in the form of a lotion, a gel, a serum, an emulsion or a dispersion of lipid vesicles.

21. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 13 for the cosmetic treatment of the skin and/or the mucous membranes.

22. (Previously Presented) A cosmetic method according to claim 21 comprising topical application of at least one fatty substance free of carbohydrate units, having a melting point of less than 35° C and having an interfacial tension of between 6 and 27 mN/m as active ingredient in a cosmetic composition intended to reduce body odours and/or intended for body hygiene health care.

23. (Previously Presented) A cosmetic method according to claim 21 comprising topical application of at least one fatty substance free of carbohydrate units, having a melting point of less than 35° C and having an interfacial tension of between 6 and 27 mN/m as active ingredient in a cosmetic composition intended to combat comedones and/or dandruff.

24. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 13 for the pharmaceutical treatment of the skin and/or the mucous membranes to combat mycosis and/or acne.